



Of Proposing and Disposing...

By Adnan R. Amin

figured or found out what the English word for them was... One even went as far as to wish for a campfire, light Spanish music on the guitar and the smell of coffee and beans!

However, guys, turn out to be more realistic about these things. Most think it could be done under any circumstances, provided the people involved are right. Some tend to be indifferent to the question. When asked how he would like to be proposed to, it were to happen by accident, one wrote, "while sleeping!"

Dreams and unfulfilled desires speak a lot for the romantic nature of today's teenagers. But reality thwarts them.

Most proposals are carefully designed but as fate would have it, they are often bungled up by the proposer or proposed or inconsequential people who accidentally happen to be around (fathers, mothers, other relatives etc.). It is not a mess-up for the individual doing the dirty work, but might prove to be so for the lucky one as well.

To start out, let's take a historical example, Albert Einstein. He was in his study with his lady and he planned to ask her hand in marriage. He took her hand. But suddenly a very fascinating idea came to his mind, which could well prove to be the solution to a very important problem. Einstein felt the irresistible need to smoke. He forgot about the hand and taking it to be pipe he tried lighting it. The lady was terrified and she screamed... bringing the scientist back to his senses. Hmm... so much for proposals!

Numerous such incidents blemish the reputations of important people as well as insignificant ones.

This friend of another friend of mine committed one of the biggest mess-ups of all time. He was *knifing* with this really fly chic who lived in Bandhara. She was in the same school he was in but only a year junior to him. The girl knew him but frequently declined to acknowledge his existence. He would hang around her house during late evenings hoping that the girl would come out any moment and fall into his arms. And that she ask him to take her away to some faraway land and buy her a villa just beside the house where *Amir Khan* and *Juhi Chawla* lived in Q507.

Days passed by very quickly. But she never came and he never actually got down to buying



From the old days proposing love to one's beloved has been one of the most important and interesting incidents of a person's life. I'm sorry for the terrible starting lines. It's just that at the moment I can come up with nothing better. But as long as I can get my message across who cares? Right?

Different people have different ideas of proposing and that's what makes the matter so interesting. For example when asked how she would like to be proposed to, a friend of mine replied, "I would like the guy to take me out on an expensive dinner. Then we should finish the last glass of champagne and he would ask me to go with him for a quiet walk. There, beside the salty smell of the jetty, he would bring out a diamond ring, get down on his knees and ask me to marry him!"

Hmm... quite outrageous! I had several questions and one remark for her. Champagne? Quiet walk? Without hijackers? Jetty? Diamond ring? Wake up...

Last semester, we conducted a survey of sorts where we included the question, "how would you like to be proposed to?" And the answers were pretty intriguing.

One girl wrote, "by the sea, in the moonlight". Another expressed her wishes for a suitable environment with a soothing breeze and mountains and all those *kash/ful's* (I never

never to be seen again.

The case of mistaken identity is not too uncommon. Numerous people including myself have fallen victims to the mortifying phenomenon. It was the second day I had called my ex-I started out with a whole lot of mushy crap about how just the sound of her voice could make me fall in love with her. She listened for some time and then said, "you probably want to speak to ***** (her real name)." I hung up...

Such incidents are worse than *dump-at-first-sight*. But not all such incidents end up disastrously. Many if not most work out just fine. Sometimes people just find their words or find the right twirl Crooks don't spoil the fun.

Frances Nadel wrote about a real life experience in the Reader's Digest. Her long time friend Sam and she were at Sam's place for dinner. Sam was very shy and never actually got down to asking her to marry him. After dinner, she stood near the car while Sam talked to his parents for some time and then finally came back.

He asked softly, "mother wants to know when we are getting married... what shall I tell her?"

Various people do it in various ways. But as long as the message gets across, everything goes. These are matters of the heart; these are the matters that really matter...



THE GIANT LEAP!

in the words of Budd Nobel, one of the early rocket pioneers: "The trip to the Moon began in 1908 when I bought, for 25 pennies, the Jules Verne novel 'From the Earth to the Moon'". In reality the exploration of the moon and space had begun ages before Verne created his masterpiece. The seed for probing into the heavens up above was initiated long before Columbus set foot in the new world; even before Aristotle had defined matter in the four basic forms of Air, Water, Earth and Fire. It was the time when its creative, wondering mind was the only barrier that separated the human race from its animal ancestors. As our prehistoric forefathers looked up at the starry nights- the lights of thousand of stars dazzling their minds and capturing their hearts- it was then that space age really began.

The ancient Greeks can be accredited the position of the first cosmologists as they had created different pictures of the universe. Their thoughts, based on pure philosophical reasoning were different from the realms of science. Nevertheless, no matter how ludicrous the picture of the universe as an infinite tower of tor-totaeas may seem to us now, the impact of such theories on our overall perception of the universe cannot be undermined. As time

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